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FCC  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW Room TW-B204  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC:

Since Clearchannell pretty much took control of the majority of radio stations in this country(Is this not the real monopoly in this issue?),terrestrial radio has become almost unlistenable. The formula is to play an extremely limited play list that appeals to only people who are content to listen to the same 30 to 40 songs over and over. There is no creativity,no chance for aspiring artists to ever get their music played on the radio,therefore forcing people to seek out alternative sources for music,news,and entertainment in general. Because people in general have no idea how great radio used to be(most who did are now dead),and because an awfull lot of people are easily duped or scamed by marketing/advertising and the type of propaganda that a corporation like the Clearchannels of the world spew on a daily basis,"regular" radio somehow still has an audience. But make no mistake-that audience is slowly but surely eroding, and the number of people willing to accept the mediocrity of terrestrial radio is dwindling as we speak. What radio has become is no less than an insult to the American public; a homogenized,dumbed down shadow of what used to be a viable source of entertainment and information. Why do you think the I-Pod has become so popular? Why do you think people are swithing over to Satellite? It's because they are tired of an inferior product that does nothing to address their concerns,their opinions,and they are dealing with an entity who cares about only one thing;the almighty BOTTOM LINE! To even use the word"monopoly" in this discussion is preposterous. It would only be a monopoly if people had no other choice for their listening and entertainment pleasure. There are so many

alternatives to Satellite Radio (with new technologies coming out all the time) that, quite frankly, I'm not sure if I've ever seen anything that is less of a "monopoly" than this! Also, if the FCC has a personal vendetta against Howard Stern, they (you) should listen to some of the "morning zoo" programming that regular radio makes available in hundreds of markets across the land. Some of this stuff makes Howard Stern seem almost tame by comparison! Of course Stern was made the poster boy for indecency a long time ago, but it's obvious that the conglomerates that have a stranglehold on radio these days are appealing to the lowest common denominator in a desperate attempt to come across as hip and relevant. These people would sell their souls to make a buck. In closing, I can honestly tell you that I love Satellite Radio, I think it poses no threat to the country, and I am amazed that our government is spending so much time and energy and money trying to stop two companies who have never made a profit from merging. Corporations are allowed to merge all the time; what is it about Sirius and XM that is causing such consternation? It would in no way, shape, or form constitute a monopoly. Both companies are willing to make concessions as far as prices/policies etc.. If terrestrial radio is so worried about Satellite radio, maybe they should ask themselves why? Aren't they confident in the product and service they provide? Satellite occupies a tiny niche in the total realm of things as far as entertainment options, yet the NAB acts as if this is the worst thing since 9/11! Isn't the entire economy built on the premise of competition? I think regular radio is afraid they might, God forbid, have to start caring about their listeners and actually improve. If they don't, it will only escalate the number of people who look elsewhere for radio that resembles something entertaining. Lastly, please take into consideration the vast number of music/information technologies available to people these days. The I-pod hasn't been outlawed (it "monopolizes" the entire digital/mp3 player market. Has the FCC contacted Apple about this?) There's internet radio, music stations on cable and satellite television, HD radio for the home and auto; the list goes on and on and will only get longer. How in God's name is Satellite Radio a monopoly!? The notion that it is is an absolute farce. Let them merge and get back to the important issues that really affect the country. This is so stupid that it is actually embarrassing. Satellite radio is not an essential commodity that people need or have to have. Most people couldn't care less about it. Why is it then that mergers are allowed on a routine basis and expedited in quick fashion in cases where it has a huge impact on the lives of people, financially and socially

and every other way. I think the answer is obvious;  
money,influence,powerful lobbyist,the ties the government has with huge  
corporations and the whole good ole boy administration that currently is  
in power. If this merger isn't allowed it will be, in my opinion, an  
absolute disgrace and just another example of how inept our government has  
become, not to mention how completely clueless this administration is in  
regard to the priorities that really matter.

Sincerely,

Steven J O'Farrell  
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